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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE:

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SUBJECT Parliamentary Criticism of Minister Lausman

DIST. 14 March 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. A number of prominent political figures in the Government intend to call Bohumil Lausman, Social Democratic Minister for Industry, to account for instances of mismanagement in the nationalized industries and for the public utterance of statements which are regarded as extremely ill-advised.

2. Lausman recently caused considerable adverse comment when he announced during a visit to Poland, that "in the name of the Czechoslovak Government" he renounced all claims to Kladsko, Hlubcicko, and Ratibor. Members of the Government feel that, as a "technical minister", Lausman had no right to make statements concerning his Government's foreign policy.

3. Lausman's handling of several large nationalized industries, such as the Skoda-Tatra automobile plant and the Vitkovice iron and steel works, is also coming up for severe criticism. It is known that production at those plants is being held up because Lausman "forgot" to place important orders for essential parts with smaller firms. Tatra, for instance, now lacks ball bearings and tires.

4. The nationalized Stalin synthetic gasoline plant at Most (Brux, F13) is being singled out as an especially glaring instance of mishandling on Lausman's part. On Lausman's instructions, Stalin synthetic gasoline is now being sold at twelve crowns per liter, although it could sell for nine crowns and still show a profit for the plant. Opportunities to purchase gasoline much more cheaply abroad are being ignored. According to source, Lausman's idea is to eliminate all competition and have the Stalin plant show a profit of 500 million crowns. He then plans to point to that plant as a "shining example" of the success of nationalized industry in Czechoslovakia.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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